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TODEL 2836

SUBJ: Cambodian Relations with the United States

REF : Bonn 7732

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1. USG has received a communication from the Royal
Khmer Government to effect that Cambodia is prepared
to resume diplomatic relations with us. We share view
that Cambodia and US can move toward normalization of

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relations.

2. On May 22, Australian Ambassador in Phnom Penh, representing US interests made oral statement to Cambodian Foreign Ministry and left text of statement. This statement referred to reports of Cambodian rejection of US border declaration of April 16. It pointed out that no statements had been made by or on behalf of the USG contradicting, expanding on, or expressing reservations to that declaration.

3. The USG's declaration remains as follows: "In conformity with the United Nations Charter, the United States of America recognizes and respects the sovereignty, independence, neutrality, and territorial integrity of the Kingdom of Cambodia within its present frontiers." As we have long held, declaration speaks for itself and we will not comment further upon it.

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4. The questions of indemnification for Cambodia's war losses as well as alleged defoliation of Cambodian territory are separate matters. The latter is being discussed with the RKG. FYI Sihanouk has frequently in past cited as one advantage of resuming relations availability of U.S. Embassy and MilAtt personnel who would be invited inspect localities of alleged border incidents. He thinks this will improve chances of USG offering compensation for such incidents. END FYI

5. Bonn can inform Fonoff of above points, adding that we intend to move cautiously in establishing a very small mission. We have growing need for direct contact with Sihanouk as well as direct information and evaluation of Cambodian situation in context of Southeast Asia. FYI Bonn, we would not advise consideration of United States as country to represent West German interests in

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Cambodia, especially in light of fact we are not
represented there ourselves at this time.

END

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